our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Winter 1993

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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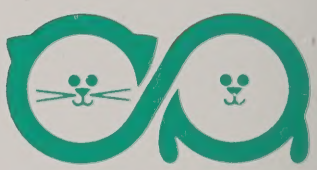

COVER:

Home for the Holidays — This League pup has already been adopted, but many more are waiting! See the inside back cover for information on the League's adoption gift certificate program.

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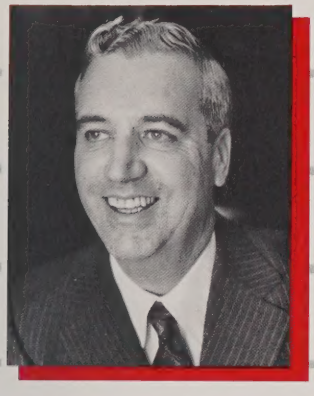


Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Chance to Strengthen Endangered Species Act

Several weeks ago I spent a day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on behalf of the American Humane Association and the Animal Rescue League of Boston. This was in connection with developing support for the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 established a uniform process for designating a plant or animal as being in danger of extinction, protecting that species from further decline, and formulating a plan for its recovery. The law made it a federal offense to kill, injure, trap, harass, or otherwise "take" any animal species listed as endangered or threatened.

Industry and conservation groups generally have agreed on the basic thrust of the Act, but the law nevertheless has led to conflicts between the two groups. Development interests often argue that many of the law's provisions intrude on property rights, land use, and water rights. Conservation groups have responded that wildlife protection should be weighted as a critical factor in determining commercial development. The great myth is that the ESA is inflexible and does not consider economics at all. While in fact, it is a flexible Act that considers economic and social impacts in every part of the process except the decision whether to list a species as threatened or endangered. In addition, under a 1978 amendment, the law allows for exemptions if protection of a threatened species jeopardizes a national or regional economic interest.

As Congress once again prepares to debate to reauthorize ESA, the nation's chief wildlife protection statute, the League is asking its members to join this process to strengthen the Act. In the House of Representatives, Rep. Studds (D-MA), Rep. Dingell (D-MI), and Rep. Saxton (R-NJ) introduced *H.R. 2043, the bipartisan Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993. Nearly identical Senate legislation (S921) was introduced by Senators Baucus (D-MT) and Chafee (R-RI).* Both bills would encourage more coordinated protection of interrelated species and their habitats, require greater recovery efforts with reduced social and economic impacts, create incentives for private landowners to conserve a species, and improve cooperation with states. We support both bills.

Do not be fooled by the competing legislation H.R. 1490, introduced by Rep. Tauzin (D-LA) and Rep. Fields (R-TX). Though styled as "Procedural Reform" amendments to the Endangered Species Act, the bill makes both major substantive and procedural changes to the Act. The substantive changes would dramatically reduce the protection the Act now affords to species on the brink of extinction. The procedural changes would unnecessarily burden the Act and its implementation. In essence, H.R. 1490 would require that economic factors be given greater consideration in efforts to conserve species.

There are a number of issues surrounding the reauthorization of the ESA including: economic/social impacts, funding of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), private landowner rights, role of federal agencies in conserving species, federal-state cooperation programs, and the development of multi-species recovery plans, to address the needs of all listed and candidate species within an ecosystem.

The Reauthorization Process: The authorization for spending under ESA expired on October 1, 1992. The Act remains in force, and appropriations to enforce and support the ESA continue, even in the absence of authorization. If the 103rd Congress fails to reauthorize the ESA, there will likely be little effect, because Congress has traditionally appropriated funds to carry out the Act after the authorization has expired. However, after twenty years, it is time to re-examine the Act and Congress has responded with proposed legislation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are the two agencies responsible for protecting endangered species. As of April 2, 1993, the Act protected 1,306 species: 775 found in the United States and other countries, and 531 found outside the United States.

In setting national priorities, some consider saving endangered species as an expensive luxury in tough economic times. Such a view is extremely shortsighted. In fact, our own future welfare depends on preserving the natural diversity of the planet. Yet the destruction of animals and plants continues, primarily because most people fail to recognize the close connection between the well-being of humans and the health of the environment.

You may send letters to your Representatives and Senators by addressing them as follows:

The Honorable_____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable_____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Teamwork Makes It Happen

by Terrie Bierig-Neyland

The American Humane Association (AHA) recently invited representatives from the League to conduct a workshop at their national training conference held in Baltimore, Maryland. The subject of the presentation was the recent innovations and positive changes that have taken place at the League over the past two years. The invitation to speak at the AHA conference is one of many instances of national recognition that these new programs have attracted.

In just the past year, the Animal Rescue League of Boston has issued new standardized guidelines for animal care, streamlined the flow of animals through the shelter, initiated a new adoption screening process, developed a new euthanasia policy and criteria, produced a video, and hosted its first Employee Appreciation Day.

What is unique about these initiatives is that the ideas came, not from the boardroom or the president's office, but from kennel attendants, secretaries, ambulance drivers, veterinary technicians, and other front-line employees who gather together weekly in teams to work on issues that directly affect them.

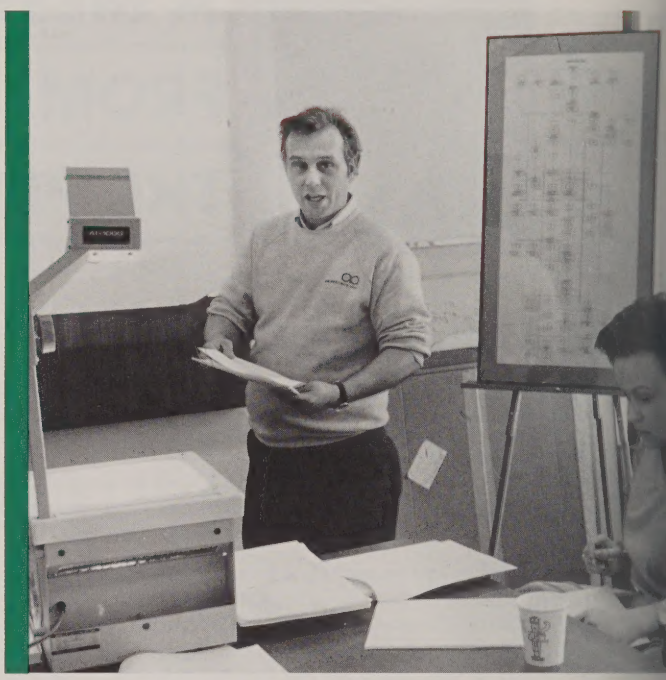
Teamwork is the key to effective change in this new management plan called the "parallel organization approach to change," adopted by the League in early 1991. What motivated the League, a highly traditional organization founded in 1899, to embark on a new course?

With a staff of 75, four adoption shelters, a pet cemetery, a summer school facility, and a law enforcement caseload that was expanding annually, the League's management structure had not kept pace with its growth. High turnover, low morale, and interpersonal friction were some of the symptoms.

"We knew that something had to be done, but what?" recalls Arthur G. Slade, League president. "I had heard good things about a consultant who had guided other organizations in the area through change." After talking with the executive committee, I invited Cheryl A. Lieberman, Ph.D., president of Cornerstone Consulting Group in Cambridge, to come in and, in effect, diagnose our problems and suggest some remedies. Dr. Lieberman recommended that the League begin to utilize one of its major resources — the talents of its own staff and commit to setting up a "parallel organization" (a management strategy introduced in the corporate world in the late 70's) as a means of exploring problem areas in greater depth, and resolving high priority issues.

A seven-member steering committee, composed of mid- and upper-level managers, was formed and the program was introduced at a League-wide staff meeting August 22, 1991. At the kickoff, all employees had an opportunity to volunteer for the action team of their choice, with the final team make-up determined by a lottery drawing from the names of those who expressed interest. Seven action teams were formed, each one charged with investigating and resolving a specific problem area identified in Dr. Lieberman's interviews.

The first steps for the steering committee, and for the action teams, involved planning, drawing up a charter, setting ground rules, learning techniques for conflict resolution, developing trust, and simply learning to sit down as equals to thrash out a problem.



Al Martin and Trish Taylor present the results of their program "Roles & Responsibilities" for the Boston headquarters to the steering committee. Behind them is the chart illustrating improved animal flow through the shel

Initial staff reactions ranged from enthusiastic to guarded, but over the next several months action teams met weekly and steering committee members — each of whom acted as sponsor to a team — responded to their ideas, and helped make them a reality. By late 1992, the teams had seven major accomplishments under their belts, and had three more finished by early this year. "Administration's sharing of responsibility with employees has increased their feelings of self-esteem and self-worth. When people take more pride in their work, this leads to better care for the animals," explains Trish Taylor, chairperson of the roles and responsibilities team and surgical technician in the veterinary clinic.

Progress throughout the change process was not entirely without pain, however. All involved learned quickly that the parallel organization is not a democracy. Outcomes were not determined by majority vote, nor did managers abdicate their decision-making responsibilities. Conflicts arose both between the action teams and the steering committee members themselves. Training in conflict resolution became an important part of the learning process. "We had to learn to sit down as equals and agree to disagree, to listen to other people's ideas instead of just our own," says Bob Walsh, Director of Operations. "We learned to value diverse perspectives," adds Ed Powers, education coordinator. "A whole new working relationship has come about between staff and management," says Arthur Slade. "People are not afraid to criticize an idea, and it's comforting to know that their reactions are real — they're not telling you what they think you want to hear."

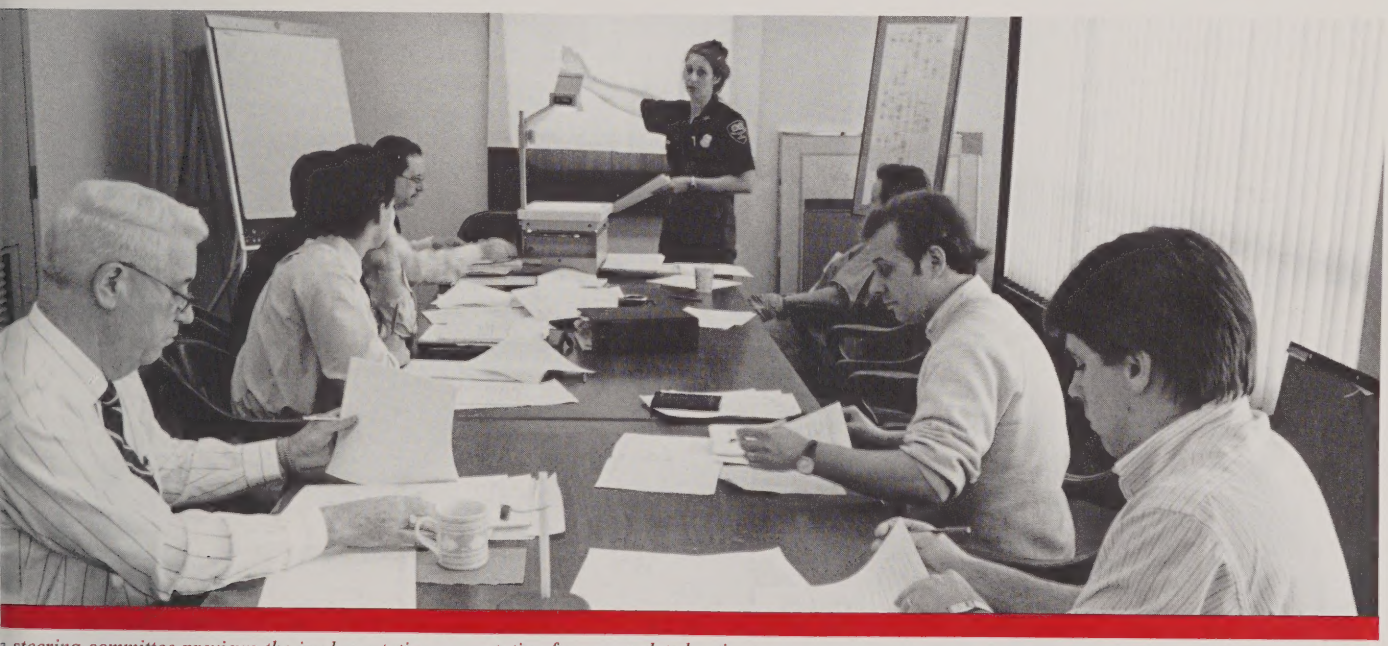
This atmosphere of progress and excitement has caught the attention of many humane organizations which is why the American Humane Association felt it would be of interest if a workshop was presented on the subject. More than seventy presidents, executive directors, and managers signed up for the workshop "Teamwork Makes It Happen." The panel of speakers were Dr. Lieberman; Arthur Slade, League president; Bob Walsh, director of operations; Terrie Bierig-Neyland, public relations coordinator; Ed Powers, humane education coordinator; all of whom had served on the Steering Committee. The goal of the workshop was to teach the attendees some of the techniques and philosophies learned at the League during the "change process" so that they could take this information back to their organizations and implement some of them.

The workshop opened with an introduction by Dr. Lieberman and an overview of her initial assessment of the issues the League had to deal with and a description of what a parallel organization is and why she felt this would be a solution. The panel fielded many questions after the introduction of the concept of a parallel organization and the key component that was stressed about this concept was that the day-to-day management of the organization does not stop during growth into a parallel organization. Managers still manage the operations of the facility and this process is not a democracy but the goal is for the parallel organization to eventually dissolve into those day-to-day operations.

The second half of the workshop dealt with techniques for creating employee involvement and the real benefits of this to managers. Most of the questions from the audience revolved around the programs developed by action teams and the steering committee acceptance of the team recommendations. Chartering employee teams to develop improved animal care programs and company policies is a new and initially scary idea for top executives. It is often difficult to change policies and behaviors that are comfortable and familiar but the lesson learned by League management is that change means improvement, not loss or failure. Bob Walsh and Ed Powers, who led this section of the workshop, explained that chartering the employees to develop programs related to their work is the best way to create acceptance for that program and to demonstrate that employee ideas and suggestions are valued by management. Enlisting the input of employees on these programs also frees managers up to do more of their own work, all of which translates into improved animal care.

The final section of the workshop was led by Arthur Slade and Terrie Bierig-Neyland which was about the results and impact of this process on the League. It was a "that was then this is now" presentation that focused on a few examples of the problems and issues pinpointed after Dr. Lieberman's assessment, how they were corrected, and what the impact has been since. In this section the presenters were able to illustrate actual resolutions to problems and the accompanying benefits, a way to make the process real. It was here that the training the steering committee received from Dr. Lieberman was discussed which was critical to the success of the whole process. Dr. Lieberman taught the steering committee how to listen effectively, accept new ideas from staff and each other and — most important of all — how to communicate effectively. The goal in this section was to communicate some of these techniques so that the attending managers might be able to institute some of them even without the assistance of a consultant.

The panel received a great deal of positive feedback from the audience when the workshop ended and most of the people attending voiced a desire to attempt some of these new concepts at their own organization. Pam Burns of the Hawaii Humane Society was motivated to express her feelings to the entire audience and the panel with, "I just want to say that I had the opportunity to visit the League and attend a steering committee meeting recently. I was extremely impressed with the staff and the level of participation I saw there, such a level of interest and focus on the issues at hand. I was struck by the knowledge that, not only would they behave that way in a meeting but would take this attitude and concern with them to other organizations and the community at large. I think this whole process is fantastic and you (the panel) obviously 'own' it."



e steering committee previews the implementation presentation for a completed action team program.

A Salute to the Staff

Simon and Garfunkel were serenading "Mrs. Robinson" and Richard Milhous Nixon had just been elected President when Virginia DeCourcey walked over to the League from her South End home to investigate an opening she had heard about. A former dental assistant looking for a career change, she had always liked animals, "and the location couldn't have been more convenient," she recalls. She started work as a clerk typist on January 8, 1968, and this year marked her twenty-fifth anniversary of service. As the highest service award recipient, she received a handsome wooden quarter century plaque, and a gold service pin.

In all, twenty employees received service awards at this year's employee appreciation dinner held November 20 at the Museum of Science. The second highest award was presented to Alfred Laconte who joined the staff in 1973 and was honored for twenty years of dedicated service in the maintenance of the League's Pine Ridge Cemetery for Small Animals at Dedham.

Honored for a decade of service were Laura MacFeeley, director of membership; and Thomas White, director of criminal investigation and legislative services.

Five-year service pins were presented to Frank Bracken, night shelter clerk in Boston; Steve Giuva, ambulance agent; Lisa Johnson, manager of the Salem branch; Daniel Miller, a member of the property maintenance staff at Pine Ridge in Dedham; Terry Ober, shelter agent at Dedham; and Peggy Turchette, secretary to the president.

Celebrating their one-year anniversaries were Deborah Athy, kennel attendant in the clinic; Dianne Begonis, law enforcement officer; Mary Callahan, Boston shelter technician; Caralyn D'Amour, kennel attendant in the Boston shelter; Dr. Bosmat Gal, veterinarian in the clinic; Melissa Kostick, ambulance agent; Lisa Mills, kennel attendant in Boston; Aleks Nowicki, shelter agent in Boston; Armand Robertson, kennel attendant at Salem; and Michael Stolfi, clerk in the Boston clinic.

Those attending the event also enjoyed a special showing of the Omni Theatre's film "Day in the Life of a Beaver."

League president Arthur G. Slade congratulates Virginia DeCourcey, who was honored for twenty-five years of service.

Ten-year award winners (l to r) Thomas White and Laura MacFeeley are greeted by Arthur Slade.

LOVE FOR SALE:

Buyer Beware

Imagine the heartache of bringing a new puppy home from a pet shop to an excited family, only to watch it sicken and die within days. Imagine now how you would feel if the same thing happened again, with a second puppy, from the same pet shop.

That's exactly what happened last year to a woman in central Massachusetts who purchased both puppies from a pet shop operator in Oakham. And she was not alone. Before the investigation into Dave Campbell's Livestock Company was concluded, more than forty people came forward with similar complaints that he was selling sick, underage puppies, imported illegally from so-called "puppy mills" in Texas and Oklahoma.

David Campbell's operation in central Massachusetts first came to the League's attention in the spring of 1991 when it was discovered that he was selling puppies without a pet shop license. He applied for and received a license, but it soon became apparent that he was failing to comply with state regulations. The League, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture continued to receive complaints about his operation, and in April, 1993 irate former clients who had purchased sick puppies confronted Campbell and his attorney at an emotional town meeting in Oakham, televised by WBZ-TV.

After a full investigation and a June hearing before the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Dairy, David Campbell became the first pet shop operator in the state to have his license revoked, after he admitted to selling dogs that were under eight weeks old, failing to quarantine dogs properly, and failing to provide adequate veterinary care.

Case closed? Not quite! As this magazine goes to press, the state is investigating new charges that Campbell is once again selling puppies in violation of state law.

The Commonwealth's pet shop regulations are designed to protect both the health and welfare of the animals sold, and the rights of the consumers who purchase them. The law requires that no dog or cat be sold without a veterinarian's certificate of health, dated no more than seven business days prior to sale. It also entitles anyone who purchases a pet that is later found by a veterinarian to be ill or diseased to return the animal within fourteen days of purchase and receive a full refund, or a substitute pet.

The heartbreak of having to return a sick pet can usually be prevented, however, if consumers learn to ask the right questions, and take a few sensible precautions before purchasing a pet.

- Check the general condition of a pet shop. Does it look and smell clean? Does the staff seem genuinely concerned for the animals? Are cages clean, and do all the animals have fresh water? Also, ask friends and neighbors what they have heard about the store.
- Look for signs of good health in the pet you choose — clear eyes, pink gums, a glossy coat with no hair loss. Avoid any animal with runny nose or eyes, and check the cage floor for signs of diarrhea or blood in the stool.
- Ask to see the veterinarian's health certificate, and request the animal's medical records. Pet shops are required by law to furnish a record of any vaccinations or medical treatment received by the animal.
- Take a newly purchased animal to your own veterinarian immediately for a health examination, and any vaccinations or booster shots that are needed. Do this even if the pet shop tells you that the animal has already had all its shots. In young animals, the antibodies transmitted from the mother can interfere with the effectiveness of vaccines if they are given at too young an age (see article on page 10).

Finally, become informed about your rights under the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act. If it can be proven that a pet dealer engaged in deceptive practice by selling a deceased animal, it may be possible for the purchaser to recover all or part of the medical costs of treating the animal.

For a copy of the "Consumer's Guide to the 30-Day Demand Letter," contact the Executive Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108. For a copy of the laws governing pet shop sales, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Law Enforcement Department, P. O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117.

CURBING THE CARRIAGE TRADE

New Protection for Carriage Horses

Over the past decade, the rapid expansion of the horse-drawn carriage tourist industry in Massachusetts, especially in the downtown Boston historic areas, has prompted widespread concern among animal welfare advocates and a growing demand for regulations that would ensure humane and safe treatment of the working carriage horse population.

The passage in August of legislation charging the Commonwealth's Department of Public Safety with the responsibility of drawing up and promulgating a body of such protective regulations has finally laid the groundwork for long-awaited progress on this humane front.

Prior to passage of this law, which becomes effective January 1, 1994, little existed in the way of protection for the state's carriage horses. The state animal welfare laws gave League officers the authority to monitor the general care of the horses and their stable conditions, and required a license for the operator of the stable where the horses were kept, but not for the individual carriage horse operators. City of Boston traffic rules covering carriage horse operation were loosely enforced, and there were no city or state laws covering working hours or conditions, safety measures or setting temperature limits that would prohibit working the horses in extreme cold, or heat and high humidity.

Under the existing laws, it was difficult to inspect carriage horse operators or to protect their horses from danger or neglect. "As the industry has grown, so also have the problems," stated the League in its testimony supporting the need for new legislation. The problems cited included horses working long and late hours, in high heat and humidity, hazardous urban traffic conditions, improper horse care, harnesses and equipment in poor repair, and horses exposed to traffic fumes and even fireworks.

To resolve these problems, the League, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Carriage Horse Action Committee — founded in 1990 to work for safe and humane treatment of these horses — have been working closely with Public Safety Commissioner Larry F. Giordano and the members of his department in drawing up the new rules and regulations to govern "Carriage Horses and the Operation of Horse Drawn Carriages on Public Roads and Ways of the Commonwealth."

As this issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends* goes to press, the regulations are still in the process of revision and fine tuning, but the difficult task is near enough to completion to provide a summary of its general direction, scope and promises.

The protective measures will focus on three major categories of concern: the licensing of carriages and carriage horse operators, the health and well-being of the horses, and issues of public safety affecting both animals and people.

Licensing Requirements

Under the new law, a license will be required to operate a horse-drawn carriage for public hire. The license application must be submitted by the person who owns or leases the horse and carriage, and must be accompanied by a full description of carriage(s), a photo of the horse that will draw it, and the number of horses and carriages to be operated at each location. A license will not be granted to any person who has ever been convicted of cruelty to animals, nor will a license be granted to work any horse younger than three years, or older than 22 years.

In addition, the carriage operator must submit a list of drivers, and proof that they have met certain criteria which will include a carriage horse driver training course, an apprenticeship with an experienced driver, and a written examination and road test that will include proper hitching and harnessing techniques as well as road safety. Drivers must also be over 21 years old, have a valid automobile driving license, and never have been convicted of cruelty to animals. The Commissioner must be notified seven days in advance of any changes in drivers, horses, or carriages, and receive proof that all requirements of operation have been met. Drivers will be required to keep a daily work log recording the number of passengers per ride, the daily schedule, and any accidents or injuries that may occur.

Keeping Horses Healthy

Every horse will have to be examined by a veterinarian seven days prior to its initial use to certify its fitness to work. After that, horses must be re-examined by a veterinarian several times a year at regular intervals (probably every three or four months), with a report indicating that the animal is in good health and proper weight submitted to the Commissioner.

Other measures geared to protect the health and safety of the horses include a limit on the number of passengers transported (not more than four adults, or a maximum of twice the horse's weight), a limit on the number of hours worked (likely to be no more than eight hours a day, 48 hours a week), requirements for regular rest periods and fresh water available, a prohibition on the use of whips or any other cruel treatment, and the setting of temperature limits above and below which horses will not be permitted to work. Horses will be required to be curbed in areas clearly designated by red and white state regulatory signs as "Carriage Horse Area — Exercise Caution!" Hours of operation will be determined by the Commissioner, depending on the particular location and traffic routes and conditions.

Safe Operation

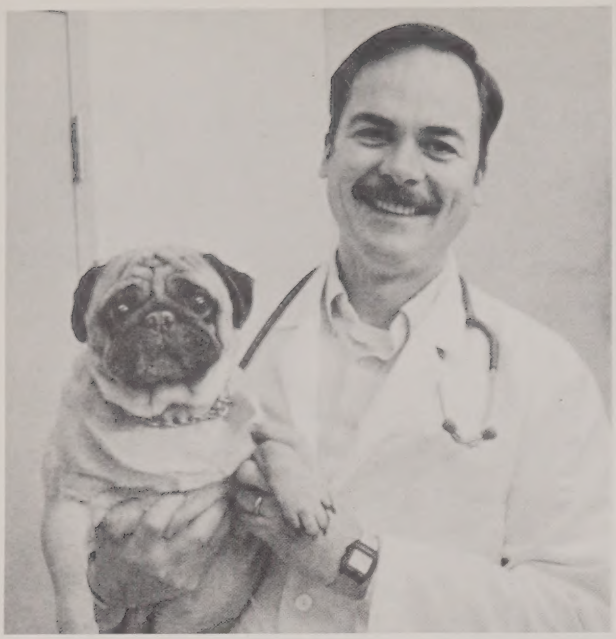
Traffic safety is a prime consideration, particularly in the heavily congested streets of downtown Boston. In addition to determining the hours of operation, the Commissioner of Public Safety will also set limits on how many licenses will be issued for a particular locality, depending on road and traffic conditions.

Inspections for carriages will be required at least twice a year, and all carriages must be equipped with such safety features as electric turn signals, tail lights and front lights, reflective strips on the side and rear, and a hydraulic brake system in good working order. Horses must never be left unattended, and the driver must have both horse and carriage under control at all times. When in motion, horses must be driven only in the slow, right lane, and may not be driven at a speed faster than a trot.

The Department of Public Safety is currently in the process of setting license fees, and determining sanctions for those who violate these rules and regulations, including fees and suspension of licenses.

The League has expressed its appreciation to Senator James P. Jajuga (D) of Methuen and Representative Paul E. Caron (D) of Springfield who spearheaded this legislation, and to Public Safety Commissioner Giordano for taking the lead in promulgating these much-needed protective measures, and for giving the League an opportunity to contribute to the process.

Anyone who witnesses what they consider to be abuse or neglect of a carriage horse, or who sees a horse-drawn carriage being operated without a state license number prominently displayed on a plate on the rear of the carriage, and on a card posted in the passenger compartment, can alert the League's law enforcement department by calling (617) 426-9170.



A Veterinary Update:

Good Health: Give It Your Best Shot!

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

It's easier to keep your pet healthy today than ever before in history, thanks to the availability of an increasing number of vaccines that effectively protect dogs and cats against a wider array of diseases, with fewer, if any, side effects.

These advances in veterinary medicine are of value to a pet, however, only if its owner takes the time or trouble to see that it receives the needed inoculations, at the appropriate age and frequency. All pet owners, but especially those who have recently adopted puppies or kittens, can save themselves potential anxiety, heartache, and even costly health care bills, by learning about and following the latest immunization guidelines.

Puppies and kittens require an initial series of two or three inoculations (depending on the type of vaccine used by your veterinarian). These shots should be given at regular intervals between the ages of 8–9 weeks and 22 weeks for a dog, 16 weeks for a cat, with annual booster shots thereafter. The most commonly used vaccines today are combination vaccines that protect against a number of different diseases. One common canine vaccine, for example, immunizes against canine distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza and parvovirus. All dogs and cats must be immunized against rabies after the age of three months, and cat owners should consult their veterinarian regarding the need for immunization against feline leukemia, which is generally recommended for outdoor cats or those in multiple-cat households.

Pet owners sometimes wonder why young animals need a series of vaccinations instead of just one, and whether the age at which they receive them is really important. Puppies and kittens usually get a certain amount of maternal antibodies which give them initial protection against disease, but the presence of these maternal antibodies interferes with the effectiveness of a vaccine. This maternal immunity disappears as the newborn matures, but it is difficult to determine how much maternal antibody is present at a given time; therefore a series of shots is recommended. Recent studies have shown that maternal antibody may still be present in certain animals for longer than was previously thought, hence the recommended age for the last immunization shot has been raised from 18 weeks to 22 weeks in dogs, and from 13 weeks to 16 weeks for cats.

Other questions frequently asked by pet owners concern side effects. It is common for animals receiving their first immunizations to have mild vaccine reactions. This can include localized redness or swelling at the site of the injection, or a mild infection with a slight fever and decreased activity. These are usually of short duration and no cause for alarm. Ask your veterinarian what, if any, side effects might be associated with the particular vaccine your pet receives.

Some cat owners have expressed concern about a rumored association between vaccinations and the development of a type of tumor called a sarcoma in cats. While a very small number of cats — estimated to be less than 2 in 10,000 — have developed sarcomas at a vaccination site, there is no reason for undue concern, and certainly no reason to avoid immunizations. The risk is very small compared to the risk of an unvaccinated animal contracting rabies, feline leukemia, and other potentially fatal feline diseases.

Warning!

It is extremely important to be sure your pet's vaccinations are up to date. Check the expiration date on your vaccination certificates and be aware that if you are even one day beyond the expiration date, your pet is considered to be unvaccinated. This distinction is crucial in the case of rabies shots, since current state guidelines require that unvaccinated animals with bites or wounds of unknown origin must be euthanized, or kept under strictly supervised lengthy quarantines. A dog or cat is considered unvaccinated after one year if it has not had two initial rabies vaccinations 9 to 12 months apart, or if it is even one day overdue for its next scheduled vaccination.

ANNUAL FALL FAIR

Rainy weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the enthusiastic crowd that turned out for this year's annual fall fair, Thursday, October 21. In between browsing for bargains, enjoying home-baked treats, and bidding on antiques at the noon auction, those attending enjoyed demonstrations by Boston police dogs and horses, and tours of the adoption shelter.

Proceeds from the League's annual fund-raising event came to nearly $6,500, thanks to the guidance and enthusiastic energy of cochairmen Jane Marshall of Boston and Helen and Earl Wentzel of Weymouth.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

STARVING HORSE ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

Alan Cunningham, barn manager at Pine Ridge, examines "Star," a severely undernourished 17-year-old mare taken into custody in September after complaints from concerned neighbors alerted the League to the plight of the starving horse. When investigators arrived at the home of an Avon family which had owned the horse for nine years, they found an emaciated gray mare that was about 300 pounds under normal weight. Star was taken to the League's Pine Ridge Animal Center where she was treated for respiratory distress and is currently regaining both strength and weight.

FISH & WILDLIFE OFFICIALS ISSUE WARNING TO "GOOD SAMARITANS"

The following news item, reprinted from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife newsletter, carries an important and potentially life-saving message for animal lovers everywhere:

Not long ago, a woman in a Boston suburb found three tiny raccoons along a street. Looking for guidance, she called a wildlife rehabilitator, the local animal control officer and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. All advised her not to handle them and indicated that they would come to collect the raccoons, but that the animals would have to be euthanized.

Rather than follow the advice, she opted to take them in and raise them despite the fact that it is against the law to keep any sort of wildlife without a permit from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. For three months the young raccoons lived in a pen in the backyard often fed by neighbors and their children. In an effort to insure their health the raccoon's self-appointed guardian had them vaccinated against rabies. After three months, one of the raccoons became ill. Taken to a rehabilitator for care, the animal died and the rehabilitator sent it in for rabies testing. The results came back positive! The other two raccoons were taken to the wildlife rehabilitator and 19 people had to take post-exposure shots. While today's shots are a far cry from the legendary 26 shots in the abdomen, the three-shot series is said to be particularly painful in the pocketbook, costing over $1,000.

The good samaritan was shocked that the baby raccoons could be rabid, but in hindsight has gained a better understanding of the state's protective regulations which were specifically designed to prevent such problems.

The important issue in this is that people should enjoy wildlife but do so at a distance. Under no circumstances should people try to approach or feed wildlife. In fact, Dr. Robert Deblinger, assistant director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, notes that most of the instances of people being exposed to rabies in Massachusetts have come about as a result of people approaching the animals rather than animals approaching humans. "At this point," Deblinger adds, "people would be well advised to think twice about approaching or petting wildlife, even in enclosures or otherwise supposedly 'safe' areas."

WSPA MOUNTS EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT

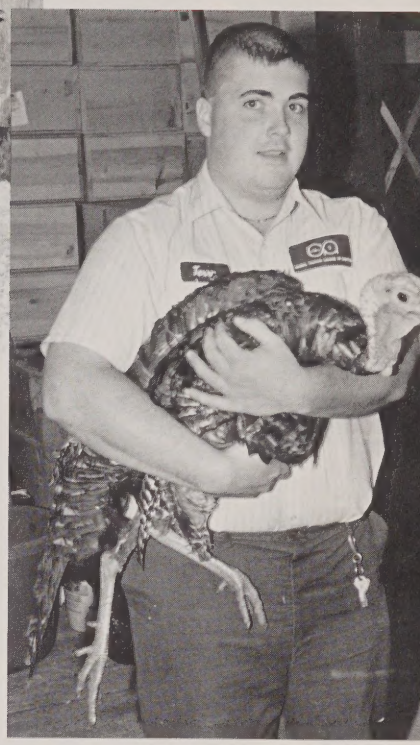
The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) reported that it was providing assistance to the government of India in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck the area in the fall. The government estimated that "over fifty thousand head of cattle and goats were affected," as well as countless numbers of companion animals. Immediate animal relief needs in the wake of the disaster included first aid supplies for the treatment of trauma, emergency transport vehicles, and skilled relief workers.

LEAGUE STAFF MEMBERS SPEAK AT R.I. SEMINAR

Three League representatives were guest speakers at a recent seminar on Animal Control Techniques and Methods, sponsored by the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Warwick, R.I. Police Department. Participating in the program, which took place October 27–29 at Johnson & Wales College in Warwick, were League president Arthur G. Slade whose topic was "Managing and Operating a Successful Shelter," public relations coordinator Terrie Bierig-Neyland who discussed "Public Relations for Animal Rescue and Control Programs," and Thomas White, director of criminal investigation and legislative services, who delivered a presentation on "Ritual Abuse of Animals."

COURT OVERTURNS RITUAL ANIMAL SACRIFICE BAN

This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision that voided several ordinances enacted six years earlier by the city of Hialeah, Florida that prohibited the killing of animals in religious rituals. The decision came in response to a lawsuit filed by a Santeria church that had announced its intention to practice ritual animal sacrifice. The court based its decision in part on the fact that the Hialeah ordinances prohibited *only* religiously motivated killing of animals while allowing slaughter for other reasons.



HOLLISTON TURKEYS ARE THE TALK OF THE TOWN

League agent Terry Ober talks turkey with one of seven fugitive fowls that were trailed, tackled, and finally taken into custody September 20 after terrorizing residents of Holliston for five months.

The captured gobblers were part of a flock of 15 turkeys that had been blocking traffic, attacking vehicles, and frightening pedestrians, not to mention refusing to move for police cruisers. The problem originated when three adult turkeys wandered into town from a nearby farm last winter. In the spring, the adults had offspring, increasing the number to 15. The captured turkeys are now living at Plimoth Plantation, and the League is continuing to aid Holliston officials in the search for the remaining members of the flock that are still at large.

AVMA OPPOSES STEEL-JAW TRAPS

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has issued an official position statement declaring unequivocally that steel-jaw leghold traps are inhumane. Banned by more than 60 other countries, the steel-jaw leghold trap is the device most commonly used by U.S. trappers despite widespread evidence that the devices cause extensive injury and suffering among both target and non-target animal populations.

LEAGUE SANTA SCHEDULES HOLIDAY VISIT TO HORSES

Plan to be in the Faneuil Hall area Monday morning, December 20, at 11 a.m. when the League's Santa Claus will make his traditional visit to city and state police horses, delivering carrots, apples, Blue Seal horsefeed, and new blankets. The event, which takes place on the Congress Street side of Faneuil Hall, is part of the League's annual Christmas dinner for horses, first held in 1913. League agents will be delivering similar holiday treats to working horses in stables throughout the area.

PETS IN THE PICTURE

1 "'Daisy' (right) not only adjusted to us immediately, but also has convinced our older cat 'Sadie' that it's ok to be friends," writes Christine and Dennis White of South Dennis who adopted their new pet from the League's Brewster shelter last spring.

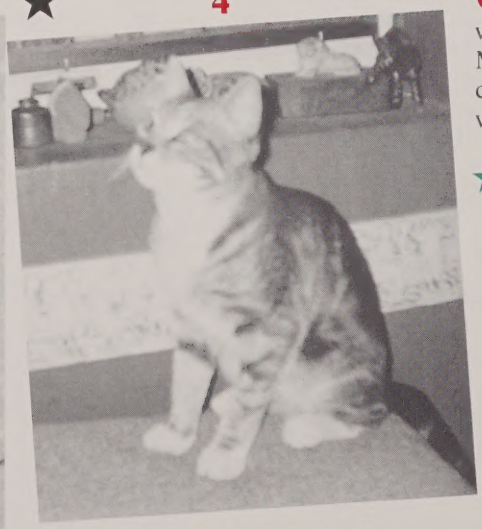
2 "Ichiban" is definitely number one with William Rab of Newton who writes: "Thank you for a great companion, my wonderful Akita which my daughter, son and grandson got for me from your Salem shelter. She's healthy, active and very happy!"

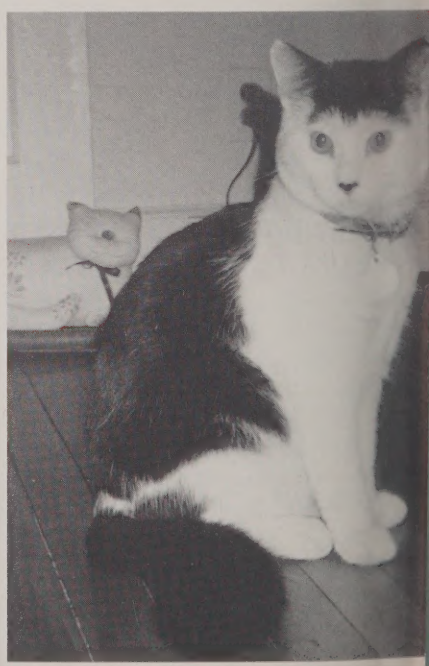
3 "Would that all animals could be as lucky as mine," writes Mrs. Kauko Johnson of Townsend, owner of "Alexander," caught in the act by the camera. "Is he planning to catch a fish, or is he just thirsty?" his owner wonders.

4 "My Buddy" strikes a pensive pose in his new home in Boston with Lois Johnson and Claire Barden, who report that the kitten, a former Boston shelter resident, "adjusted to his new home within five minutes!"

5 Debra Rogers of Chelsea, who adopted her two kittens from the League's Boston shelter last summer, shares this photo of "Bam Bam" and "Pebbles." "This was before the tree was completely destroyed and thrown out," she writes.

6 "Ricky" O'Neil of Wellesley was ruling the roost within three days of his adoption, according to owner Marsha O'Neil. "He and our dog are buddies, although the cat pesters him to death. I tell the dog that it's payback for what he did to a former cat when he was a puppy!"





Love comes in all colors and sizes...

...at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Give the gift of love to someone special this year...a present that won't be too big or too small, too dull or too daring, and will never have to be exchanged after the holidays. With a pet adoption gift certificate from the Animal Rescue League of Boston, they can pick out the pet of their choice—a gift that will bring enjoyment for many years to come—at any of the League's four conveniently-located adoption shelters.

A gift certificate for a puppy or kitten, older dog or cat, hamster, gerbil, or even a rabbit can be ordered by telephone, and charged to your credit card.

Animal Rescue League of Boston 10 Chandler St. • (617) 426-9170

Branches:	Dedham	Salem	E. Brewster
	(617) 326-0729	(508) 744-7910	(508) 255-1030

A non-profit humane society helping animals since 1899.

A WAY TO REMEMBER

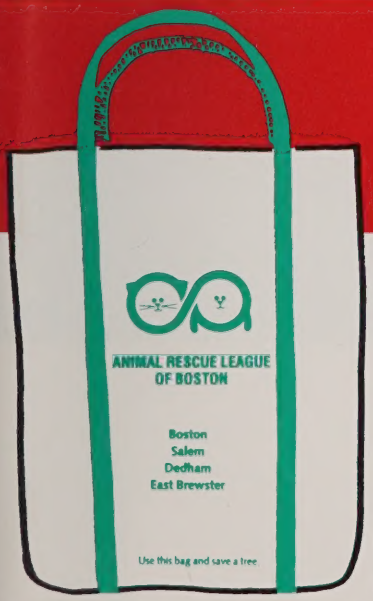
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is **"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"** that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



FOR HOLIDAY GIVING

NEW ARL TOTE BAG

Be a conscientious consumer and carry your purchases in this rugged white cotton duck tote bag, roomy (17″ × 11½″) with royal blue handles and League logo. Priced at $12, plus $3 for shipping and handling. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ shopping totes at $12 each, plus $3 shipping and handling.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $ _____ made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Mail to:
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265
Boston, MA 02117

ROYAL PRESENCE —A Persian longhair born in Kuala Lumpur, "Shahjahan" graces the home of League members Joseph and Sophia Stern, who live in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED